

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, Claims 1-3 and 5-9 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. The subject matter of canceled Claim 4 has been incorporated into Claim 1.

Claims 5-9 are new. Support for Claims 5-7 can be found in the specification, such as on pages 3-4. Support for Claim 8 can be found in the specification such as on page 5. Support for Claim 9 can be found in the specification, such as on page 6.

Therefore, there is no new matter.

The outstanding Office Action includes the following three (3) rejections.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,411,779 to Nakajima *et al.* ("Nakajima '779").

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,201,945 to Schlueter, Jr. *et al.* ("Schlueter '945").

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,532,056 to Satoh *et al.* ("Satoh '056").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claim 1 presently recites that the fixing belt has a buckling strength of 40 N or higher and a tear strength of 0.2 N or higher.

In contrast, Nakajima '779 discloses coating a poly(amic acid) solution on the inner circumferential surface of a cylinder and thereafter imidizing the poly(amic acid) upon heating.

See, col. 8, lines 25-31. Such a disclosure in Nakajima '779 fails to describe defoaming a polyimide precursor by centrifugal force.

Schlueter '945 discloses that a poly(amic acid) filler mixture is pebble milled in a roller mill, attritor or sand mill, cast onto a surface, has the solvent removed by evaporation and heated to convert the poly(amic acid) to polyimide. *See*, col. 9, lines 23-27. Such a disclosure in Schlueter '945 fails to describe defoaming a polyimide precursor by centrifugal force.

Satoh '056 discloses a fixing belt in which a fluorosilicone rubber or fluorocarbonsiloxane rubber is formed on an endless belt body formed of polyimide resins, fluororesins, polyester resins or metals such as stainless steel and nickel. *See*, col. 3, lines 13-21. Such a disclosure in Schlueter '945 fails to describe that the endless belt body thereof is produced by defoaming a polyimide precursor by centrifugal force.

Applicants respectfully submit that each of Nakajima '779, Schlueter '945, and Satoh '056 fail to inherently describe a fixing belt having a buckling strength of 40 N or higher and a tear strength of 0.2 N or higher. To establish inherency, it must be clear that the missing descriptive feature is necessarily present in the cited art. *See*, MPEP § 2112 (IV) (2005).

In the present case, each of Nakajima '779, Schlueter '945, and Satoh '056 fail to describe that the molding of a tubular object includes defoaming a polyimide precursor by centrifugal force. As a result, it has not been established that a buckling strength of 40 N or higher and a tear strength of 0.2 N or higher is necessarily provided in Nakajima '779, Schlueter '945, and Satoh '056.

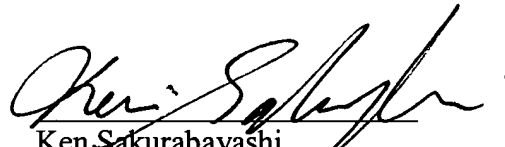
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/797,063

Docket No: Q80008

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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